

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE AMER-
ICAN GI FORUM ON ITS 60TH AN-
NIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1291, which celebrates the 60th anniversary of one of our country's most prominent veterans and civil rights organizations—the American GI Forum.

Originally founded to assist Hispanic World War II veterans fight discrimination from the VA, the American GI Forum now advocates for numerous additional causes, including voting rights, job training, and better access to education.

This bill is special to me because it also commends the American GI Forum's founder, Dr. Hector P. Garcia, who hails from my hometown of Corpus Christi, TX. Dr. Garcia, himself a distinguished veteran, was one of the early leaders of the Hispanic civil rights movement.

Dr. Garcia served as an alternate ambassador to the United Nations in 1967, was appointed to the United States Commission on Civil Rights in 1968, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the Nation's highest civilian honor—in 1984.

Dr. Garcia grew up in South Texas and hitchhiked 30 miles a day to go to school. He enrolled into the University of Texas Medical School which accepted only one Mexican-American student per year.

In addition to helping Hispanic veterans, Dr. Garcia also led the fight against ending discrimination against Hispanic students and brought attention to the poor conditions of migrant workers.

From working with Presidents on civil rights issues to providing medical services to those who couldn't pay, Dr. Garcia dedicated his life to bettering the lives of all. His legacy, through the American GI Forum, will always live on.

I congratulate the members of the American GI Forum for all their work as a beacon of hope for all veterans and citizens aspiring to improve the lives of those in their community.

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE CITY
OF RIPON, WISCONSIN

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, on March 20, 2008, the City of Ripon, Wisconsin, celebrated the 150th anniversary of its being granted a city charter by the State of Wisconsin in 1858. The sesquicentennial of Ripon's chartering will be officially observed this summer at an annual community celebration called "Riponfest," which attracts thousands of visitors to the city to participate in a weekend of events recognizing everything that is best about this outstanding community in the heart of Wisconsin's 6th Congressional District.

Ripon, of course, is best known as "the Birthplace of the Republican Party." According

to the Wisconsin State Historical Society, "the first mass meeting in this country that definitely and positively cut loose from old parties and advocated a new party under the name Republican" took place on March 20, 1854, in the "Little White School House" in Ripon.

I am pleased that a number of my colleagues have had the opportunity over the years to visit the Little White School House in Ripon. This site, which is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, was recently restored thanks to the generosity of the Jeffris Family Foundation of Janesville, Wisconsin, which provided a challenge grant matched by funds raised by the dedicated and hard-working citizens of Ripon. They recognize the historical significance of this important site and the value of maintaining it so that it may be visited and enjoyed by future generations.

Ripon always has maintained a heritage of active citizenship and has been the home of a number of nationally recognized leaders, including George Peck, nationally beloved author of the Peck's Bad Boy books and Governor of Wisconsin; Harry Selfridge, founder of Selfridge's Department Store in London and the man who revolutionized retail commerce through the creation of the modern department store; Carrie Chapman Catt, a leader of the women's suffrage movement who organized the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution and founded the League of Women Voters; Winifred Edgerton, the first woman in the country to earn a PhD in mathematics; Ben Marcus, whose nationwide empire of cinema complexes, hotels, and restaurants began with the Campus Cinema in Ripon; and Mark Conrad who, when elected mayor of Ripon in 1972 while still attending college, became the youngest mayor in the Nation.

For one hundred and fifty-seven years, Ripon has been the home of Ripon College, a nationally recognized quality liberal arts institution. For over one hundred and fifty years, Ripon has also valued its citizens with entrepreneurial spirit and vision who have given rise to the many businesses that continue to thrive there.

Given its rich history and regional significance, Ripon has been a leader among Wisconsin communities in the preservation of the historic architecture, artifacts, and documentary records related to the city's character and development.

I hope you will all join me in congratulating Ripon, Wisconsin, on the 150th anniversary of its chartering as a city by the State of Wisconsin.

TRIBUTE TO JILL PRUETZ

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa State University primatologist Jill Pruetz on winning a National Geographic Society Emerging Explorer Award for her research on primates in Senegal, Africa.

Jill, who is also an associate professor of anthropology at Iowa State University, received international recognition for performing a study which recorded habitual hunting by Savannah chimpanzees in Senegal, Africa.

She found that apes made spears from twigs and caught prey with them. Jill is currently focused on the chimps' reactions to fire, use of water and general movements and behaviors. During her 7 years of researching in Senegal, Jill has suffered from malaria and avoided hazards such as poisonous snakes.

Jill's work and research is important to widening the scope of knowledge of different areas and species around the world. Without Jill's individual efforts, science would be left behind in understanding the environment's role in the adaptations of Earth's species.

I commend Jill Pruetz for all her hard work and contributions to scientific exploration. I consider it an honor to represent Jill in Congress, and I know my colleagues join me in wishing her future success and happiness as she continues her work in primatology.

COMMENDING THE WOOLUM FAM-
ILY OF KNOX COUNTY, KEN-
TUCKY, FOR ITS TRADITION OF
SERVICE TO THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, during this time of conflict overseas, the United States has called on her brave men and women in uniform to serve and to sacrifice. And they have answered this call—with honor, with immeasurable courage and with distinction. I rise today to recognize the Woolum Family, hailing from my region of southern and eastern Kentucky, for their dedication and decorated service to our great Nation.

David and Ruby Woolum, of Artemus, Kentucky, devoted their lives to imparting in their 12 children love of God, love of family, and love of country. Today, I am incredibly honored to share with you that seven of their nine sons, and four of their grandchildren, have taken these valuable lessons to heart and in turn dedicated their lives to military service. Their representation of both Kentucky and the United States is exemplary.

David and Ruby's sons David and Robert served valiantly in the Marine Corps; in fact, David returned from his second tour in Vietnam a decorated veteran and a recipient of a Purple Heart. Their brothers—Charles, Richard and Keith—spent their military careers in the Air Force, while Joseph and Terry Woolum served bravely in the Army. Terry is currently in his 33rd year of military service, as a member of the National Guard. The support of their siblings Priscilla, Ellen, Eric, and James never wavered.

Even more impressive is that their collective spirit of patriotism has trickled down to a younger generation of Woolums, who continue to represent southeast Kentucky with pride: David and Ruby's grandchildren Joseph, Robert, Jason and Jolene are currently serving in the Marine Corps, Army, National Guard and Air Force, respectively.

Thankfully these 11 closely knit men and young woman have returned safely from their many overseas tours of duty, including multiple deployments to such destinations as Vietnam, Germany, France, and recently, Iraq. I